



News Release

Contacts: Robert T. Tad Perry, Executive Director
tadp@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Information & Institutional Research
janellet@sdbor.edu

T: 605.773.3455

F: 605.773.5320

www.sdbor.edu

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Regents Plan New Academic Programs

VERMILLION, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents Thursday approved plans by South Dakota State University to offer a new minor in statistics at both the master’s and doctoral level, aimed at helping students gain an advantage in the job market.

“Increasingly our students find they need better statistical decision-making skills to manage the incredible growth in the magnitude and availability of raw data and information,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett.

The new minor would be available to students in any master’s degree or Ph.D. degree program offered at SDSU. Campus officials say the minor would be especially relevant to disciplines such as animal science, biological sciences, nursing, sociology, geospatial sciences, and mathematics, among others.

The statistics minor would consist of 14 credit hours at the Ph.D.-degree level, while master’s degree candidates would complete 11 credit hours for the minor.

In other action, a regents’ committee recommends that Northern State University be allowed to plan for two new bachelor degree programs, one in banking and financial services and another in sports marketing and administration.

A degree in banking and financial services will prepare students for careers in banking, insurance, and other financial institutions. In particular, NSU officials say smaller communities across South Dakota are looking for well-trained graduates to assume management roles in their local financial institutions. The sports marketing and administration degree is intended to provide a highly specialized education for students seeking to become professionals in an industry which has grown from a \$63 billion to a \$195 billion industry over the past decade.

Neither baccalaureate program will require new state resources to implement. NSU officials will return to the board later for final approval of their programs after plans are finalized.